

Appl. No. : 09/354,063
Filed : July 15, 1999

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REMARKS

The August 15, 2006 Office Action was based on pending Claims 52-87. By this Response, Applicant is amending Claims 52, 55-60, 65, 68-73 and 78-86 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 53, 54, 61-64, 66, 67, 74-77 and 87 remain as previously presented.

Thus, after entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 52-87 are pending and presented for further consideration. In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 52-87 are in condition for allowance.

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIONS AND REJECTIONS

The August 15, 2006 Office Action objected to Claims 52 and 78 for claim informalities.

The Office Action rejected Claims 52, 65 and 78 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Dependent Claims 53-64, 66-67 and 79-87 were rejected for a similar rationale.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in the pending claims. In particular, the Examiner indicates that Claims 52-87 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth below with respect to the claim objections and rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 52-87 are in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Office Action rejected Claims 52-87 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Although Applicant believes that the claims as previously presented satisfy the statutory requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicant has clarified the claims in accordance with the suggestions made by Examiner Colbert during the

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December 5, 2006 interview. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 52-87 are in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If further issues remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned such that the issues may be promptly resolved.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 12/7/2006

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